

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Verle Wessel" <vwessel1@insightbb.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 11:40 AM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

I am a blind person who might go to more movies or watch more television. Unfortunately movies and television rely more and more on action and special effects to hold the attention of the audience. As a blind person I am turned off by long stretches of a program that have no dialog between the characters. I simply can figure out what is going on. I have purchased several audio described video tapes of movies which enjoy. I also watch Turner Classic movies on television that are described. I do not understand why the major producers of mass media have such an attitude about accessibility. If the movie and television producers do not want me as a customer, I will be more than happy to spend my entertainment dollars elsewhere. Thanks.

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "David Allen" <wd8ldy@access.mountain.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 10:47 AM  
**Subject:** I Support Vidio Description

1619 Fairmont Avenue  
Clarksburg, WV 26301-2425

March 3, 2002

To whom it may concern

I wish to state for the record that I support vidio description. Specifically, I believe recent actions of the National Association of Broadcasters, and the cable and motion picture industries demonstrate a united attempt to deny the blind equal access to television programming.

Lack of this necessary component in television has resulted in my inability to understand what is happening in most TV situations, since I live alone and do not have the handy aid of a sighted person to afford me the assistance needed to complete my picture. This has a further reaching result in that I am unable to discuss many current events on a par with sighted peers when I do occasionally encounter them in my daily life.

In recent years, a very politically motivated organization of blind persons has opposed requirements of vidio description on a lack of necessity grounds. Further, they would claim that we only need access to news and emergency information. Even if you believed their claim, and I do not, it falls on its face in the course of almost any national newscast when the stock report is often reported only by visual means. This clearly demonstrates that the industry can not be trusted to deliver even the minimum information considered essential by the National Federation of the Blind.

Considerable progress has been made by the American Council of the Blind and others to see that the blind have an equal footing with their sighted bretheren. Their work should be rewarded with the implimentation of the FCC's original decision in Docket Number 99.339.

Siding with the industry that has only successfully proven time and time again that it can't be trusted to look after itself will only achieve further degredation of service for all citizens, none more significantly than those who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David C. Allen

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Georgia Cawley" <pollyanna@core.com>  
**To:** <info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 7:25 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

My name is Georgia Cawley and I live in Wheaton Illinois. I lost my sight in 1995 from multiple sclerosis. I always enjoyed watching tv. But now I miss out on so much while I'm watching tv. Having the description would help me a lot. My physical activity is restricted more and more because of my ms. I really enjoy tv and really hope you approve the ruling to have the shows have the video description. Going to the movies with the descriptive video has made a world of difference for my quality of life. I had quit going to the movies until the dvs started playing in my neighborhood theater. Going to the movies is fun again.

Georgia Cawley  
1603 Leytonstone Dr.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
email: pollyanna@core.com  
phone: 630-653-0444

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "ronda king" <imjoking@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 9:47 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To FCC Officials:

I am a blind television watcher in California. I strongly support the FCC ruling for video description programming on TV. As a joke, I tell people that I listen to the TV and watch the radio. Being blind and watching television is the same as it was for people before televisions were invented, when everyone crowded around the good old radio and listened to their favorite programs.

There was a growing number of people out in Radioland who wished they could see the performances of their soap operas, comedy shows, and even the music programs. This dream came true for millions of radio viewers. Thus, I commend the FCC for their efforts in helping those same dreams come true for those who are blind or visually impaired, who still remain virtual radio viewers. After all, it's not like we're asking others to put blindfolds on to view their televisions.

So let's all sing out a big HOORAY for the FCC for helping to take the mystery out of television viewing. All people should be allowed to know what is happening on the screen during those quiet moments, or see those numbers being shown on the screen without verbal announcements, or to be able to experience the entire effect that television viewing offers. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!

Rhonda King

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**From:** <BlindLee55@aol.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 2:40 PM  
**Subject:** (no subject)

first let me say i am a member of nab and what i want to say is just my own opinion not the opinions of the nab but my opinion is that if both the ACB and nab would show a united front against the problems that confront blind that that will send a signal to the sighted community that both agency are for the rights of the blind and will fight shoulder to shoulder for the blind, for as it has Ben said a house deviled against itself cant stand but a house united will stand against the worst of storms.

lee

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Linda Lenk" <iblin@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 9:19 AM  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT VIDEO DESCRIPTION

The first time I ever saw a movie with video discription, it opened up a whole new world to me. Friends and family had attempted to describe movies for me, and granted they really gave it their all, there was nothing like having every visual detail described. I found I liked movies that I thought would never appeal to me.

Please give us the opportunity to see some of these television shows as our sighted peers do.

Linda  
MSN: colormehappy26@hotmail.com

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Allison Carter" <allison@usadatanet.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 03, 2002 8:46 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To The Secretary of the FCC,

I am writing to let you know of my feelings about MM

> docket number 99-339. It is very important for all those who are blind and want to fully enjoy television shows that descriptive video be implemented on schedule. With more and more shows relying on visual effects and plot lines with little dialogue, descriptive video can mean the difference between enjoying a show and being clueless about what is happening. It is ultimately a good thing for both cable and network stations to provide since it will open up shows for a whole segment of the population, providing ratings increases and increase of revenues for advertisers. I hope you will consider these points when the time for implementation comes up in April.

Allison Carter

402 Fultz DR.

Oneida, NY 13421

Allison

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Judy Davis" <judydavis79@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 01, 2002 2:08 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Friday, March 1, 2002

Dear Mr. Caton:

I wanted to let you know that I am shocked that the petition late last Friday, asking the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal, is being considered! I have been looking forward to the days in what I thought would be in the near future to being able to enjoy television, as much as others in our country who have vision. It is time to force the television, cable, and movie industry to comply with the letter of the law, and give those with low vision access.

My sight-loss is caused by retinitis pigmentosa. I was diagnosed with it when I was seven, and now that I am 40 I have very limited vision, and I have been using a white cane for sixteen years. I cannot tell you how many times I call to a family member to come describe something to me, only to find by the time he/she have gotten there that the scene has changed, and that it is too late. A prime example of this was last spring in the dramatic season finale of JAG. Harmon Rabb, Jr.'s plane was going down. Next thing I heard ocean waves and Harm struggling. I had no clue what was happening!

It is because of incidents like this, which are too numerous for me to list, that I am asking you to PLEASE support MM docket number 99-339, and to allow no delay in giving me the access that I want.

Just the other day I went to the DVS website, and completed a survey. I was thrilled to share what shows I wanted to have described. I invite you and others considering this delay to spend a week, and I mean a week, watching their favorite television shows with a blindfold on, not removing it until the television is off! Remember that I am asking you to do this for a week, and remember that I am only asking you to do it for a week, and I want you to remember that I will at the end of your week still have on the blindfold on which I cannot remove!

Please do the right thing, and do not allow any further delays in this process! Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Judy L. Davis

3/4/02



14 Zephyr Drive

Asheville, NC 28806

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Jan LaPrath" <perryjan@tscnet.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 1:57 AM  
**Subject:** "I support video description"

To: The Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission  
 From: Janette LaPrath  
 2130 E 24th St.  
 Bremerton, WA 98310  
 Email: perryjan@tscnet.com

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am 65 years old & I have been totally blind for the past 32 years. I rarely watch television as it is hard to know the setting of action, the meaningful expressions on actor's faces, what is going on when action is taking place & there is no verbal output, & any general visual description that makes the plot interesting. It would have been so very nice to have had the recent Olympic Games events described so that I might have enjoyed the excitement as fully as any other sighted person.

The blind in this country have been waiting for a long time for access to all television broadcasts to be described, so that we might have access to the TV the same as it is to all other citizens of this nation. I was shocked to hear that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America filed a petition on Friday, 02/22/2002, at the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal is decided.

This request has been made just one month before compliance is required by the industry, well into the period that the industry was given as an extension to do the right thing. It is made at the eleventh hour, as blind and visually impaired people all over this nation have been expectantly waiting, since the issuance of the order to finally have access to television programming. I am outraged at this offensive action on the part of an industry that argues itself to be called, "socially responsible"

Mr. Secretary, I urge you to not retreat from your order, and that you support the requirement, (reference MM docket number 99-339) that industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule in April. Please do not let the movie, cable, and television industry succeed in their efforts to deny us our ability to access information available to everyone else who can see the television.

Thank you so much for your efforts in our behalf.

Sincerely,  
Janette LaPrath

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Jessie and Dogs" <rcdeagle@ix.netcom.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 11:25 PM  
**Subject:** I Support video description

Hi. I do hope we will have this issue regarding descriptive video services resolved, favorably. I have enjoyed the few DVS movies I have been able to obtain immensely, with sighted people and by myself. I would watch more TV and movies if it were all described for me as it should be. I believe I miss out on quite a few movies and TV programs my sighted peers watch and take for granted because I live by myself and don't always have sighted people with me, therefore unless I come across something where I can follow with the dialogue, TV and movies are not real enjoyable to me. My sighted friends who have watched these movies with me have enjoyed them, and the description, as well. They were certainly not distracted by the description.

Please, to those of you not in favor of these descriptions, spend several hours watching various television shows and movies blind-folded. Then decide how you'd like to do this all of the time. It is precisely what I, and other blind people, do.

Jessie

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Bill Tipton" <billtipton@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 10:22 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Hello,

I support video description.

I really would like to be able to listen to a movie and hear better descriptions.

This way I could follow along like people who can see.

I could then discuss the movie after the fact and talk coherently like I knew what the movie was about.

I would greatly appreciate all the help in getting descriptive videos.

Thank you.

Bill Tipton  
841 Selby Lane  
San Jose, CA. 95127

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Marie Rudys" <marierudys@attbi.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 10:25 PM  
**Subject:** Support

I support the DVS description. I don't like to see it being denied us. I hate it when numbers are not announced on TV and they flash it on the screen. It isn't fair.

Marie Rudys

3/4/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Debbie Morgan" <res06aot@gte.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 10:05 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

Video description would give all of us who are blind equal access to television programs and movies. It would also give us access to local programming and weather bulletins and other such information that is often flashed across the screen.

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "friends" <res00l5f@gte.net>  
**To:** <info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 11:25 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Janet Friend  
103 N. Towanda Ave. Apt. #6  
Normal, IL 61761

Dear sir,

It is urgent that our access to descriptive video be started as promised by schedule and reference MIM docket number 99-339. industry has the money but we have the rights to access. We need and have the right to be informed just as all sighted individuals are kept informed of current events and entertainment. If we are to fully function as well enformed citizens this is vital to keep everyone up to date. I am a legally blind concerned person. This was to be implemented in April.

Cordially,  
Janet Friend

3/4/02



**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Michelle Majoy" <mmajoy@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 10:09 PM  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

**Barbara Vodapive**

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**From:** "Ken Loden" <kenloden@netdoor.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 8:59 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Reference MM docket number 99-339.

I support video description.

KEN LODEN

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Donna Sanchez" <dsanchez99@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 4:13 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To: ""Secretary of Federal Communications Commission

From: Donna Sanchez  
27 Quail Hollow Dr  
San Jose CA 95128

I am writing you this letter to let you know that I support you in making sure description to TV will be implemented on schedule in April. I support the requirement that industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule because MM docket number 99-339 will enable blind people the opportunity to watch TV just like a fully sighted person. I think will benefited everyone involved because we (the Blind and Visually Impaired) will get important news releases, Will be able to by products from advertisements because we will Be able to see what everyone sees and when there is just written material on the screen we will have equal access to what is on the screen relating to advertisements, end of movies and special rellaces of emergency Oriegon.

Thank you for your time and I do hope you make sure that Descriptive TV does start in April on its schedule date.

Sincerely  
Donna Sanchez

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Pamela Loch" <pamlteach@msn.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** i SUPPORT VIDEO DESCRIPTION

**Barbara Vodapive**

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**From:** "Sharron Rush" <srush@knowbility.org>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

...and if you took the time to learn about it, I imagine you would too.

~~~~~  
Sharron Rush  
Executive Director  
Knowbility, Inc. <http://www.knowbility.org>  
PO Box 684671  
Austin, Texas 78768  
(512) 279-0801  
On the Information Superhighway, everyone should be able to GO!  
~~~~~

**Barbara Vodapive**

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**From:** "Brent Harding" <bharding@mail.doorpi.net>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Having described programs would be a great help to visually impaired people, as it would allow us to know what's going on on TV during parts of a program that the sound doesn't really portray what's happening. The deaf have had close captioning for years now, so the blind should be able to get descriptive video as well.

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "I m" <changes2\_2000@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 2:15 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Viodeo Description

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**Do You Yahoo!?**

Yahoo! Sports - Sign up for Fantasy Baseball

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "jenny hwang" <hwang\_jen@msn.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 11:25 AM  
**Subject:** I support Video Description

In response to the petition , It is wrong to hold up the right of all blind and visually impaired persons' right to be able to view television programs and movies like every other American. They syhould have the right to enjoy their favorite tv program or movie. Without being able to see what is going on at a movie or on television makes it difficult for blind and visually impaired people to understand what went on during that movie or program. Somethimes blind or visually impaired people miss what is going on in a particular scene even with background sound effects or music to indicate what happenned. like I said, blind and visually impaired people will be able to understand and enjoy these things much better.

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**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Mary Kratcha" <kratchack@msn.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 10:34 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

March 2, 2002

Mr. William Canton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 15th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 29554  
Reference MM Docket no. 99-339

I sit here recuperating from a spiral fracture of my right tibia. This is considered a temporary disability and I should recover from it. However, people with a permanent disability, such as blindness, that impairs a major life activity need our help in any way We are able to do it. That is why I support the requirement that industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule. What happened to the patriotic spirit from Sept. 11? People with disabilities and their families have and continue to suffer losses. These same people have and continue to contribute to our society. The movie, cable, and broadcast industry should be willing to consider the implementation of DVS as soon as possible.

Robert J. Kratcha  
212 S State Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449